



State of Arizona  
Department of Education

**SFSP CN# 03-12**  
**USDA: SFSP 02-2012**

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**MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Sponsors

**FROM:** Mary Szafranski, Deputy Associate Superintendent  
Arizona Department of Education, Health & Nutrition Services

Cara Peczkowski, Director  
Arizona Department of Education, School Nutrition Programs

**DATE:** November 18, 2011

**RE:** Eligibility Based on Census Data

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*Original Signed*

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide guidance regarding the duration of site eligibility determinations based on census data in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). SFSP sites are eligible to serve all meals free to participating children if they are located in areas in which poor economic conditions exist. The Arizona Department of Education approves such sites through the use of census data.

In 2005, the Census Bureau began to annually estimate household income using the American Community Survey (ACS). The ACS is an ongoing survey that provides annual estimates, based on sampling data, and are considered the most reliable and precise data, especially for small areas such as census block groups. Census block groups will continue to be the geographical unit used to determine eligibility for the SFSP when using census data.

SFSP sites that establish eligibility using census data are required to use the **most recent** data available. Under the new ACS, five year estimates will be available each year. However, in order to minimize administrative burden, site eligibility based on census data will be valid for a five year period of time and then must be reassessed. This timeframe is consistent with SFSP policy regarding the use of free and reduced-price school meal data to determine eligibility.

For questions regarding this memorandum, please contact your School Nutrition Programs Specialist at (602) 542-8700.

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*

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